

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 12082 111018Z

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, US, JA

SUBJECT: MANSFIELD REPORT ON JAPAN VISIT

REF: TOKYO 10918

SUMMARY: JAPANESE ARE DELIGHTED WITH MANSFIELD REPORT. END
SUMMARY.

1. SENATOR MANSFIELD'S CALL FOR END TO POSTWAR
PATRON-CLIENT RELATIONSHIP AND BEGINNING OF "NEW
PARTNERSHIP" BETWEEN US AND JAPAN WAS PROMINENTLY
FEATURED IN EVENING EDITIONS OF VERNACULAR PRESS AUG 9.
ALL DISPATCHES STRESSED MANSFIELD'S ARGUMENT THAT
NON-MILITARY JAPAN SHOULD PLAY SPECIAL WORLD
LEADERSHIP ROLE, AND HIS CALL FOR PERMANENT JAPANESE
SEAT ON UNSC. BUSINESS-ORIENTED NIHON KEIZAI IN
PARTICULAR SEEMS CHARMED BY NOTION THAT JAPAN MAY
EMERGE FROM "ITS WATERGATE" (THE LOCKHEED SCANDAL)
WITH ITS POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS STRENGTHENED.
YOMIURI IN CONTRAST LAID STRESS ON MANSFIELD VIEW THAT
MUTUAL SECURITY TREATY AT HEART OF RELATIONSHIP.
ALL PAPERS SEEMED PLEASED BY EMPHASIS ON REGULAR
CONSULTATIONS, ON BASIS OF TRUST AND EQUALITY,
TO INSURE AGAINST "SHOCKS."

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PAGE 02 TOKYO 12082 111018Z

2. DISPATCHES APPEAR TO HAVE COVERED ALL MAJOR

POINTS MADE BY MANSFIELD, GIVING LESSER EMPHASIS TO RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GRADUAL WITHDRAWAL OF GROUND FORCES FROM KOREA AND FOR CONTINUATION OF BASE CONSOLIDATION PROGRAM IN JAPAN. SENATOR WAS IN MOST CASES IDENTIFIED AS "FRIEND OF JAPAN" AS WELL AS DEMOCRATIC PARTY MAJORITY LEADER WHO IN RECENT VISIT HERE CONFERRED WITH GOVERNMENT LEADERS.

3. BECAUSE REPORT WAS MADE PUBLIC DURING JAPANESE PRESS HOLIDAY AND BECAUSE DOMESTIC POLITICAL EVENTS HAVE IN THE MAIN CROWDED FOREIGN NEWS (UNLESS LOCKHEED-RELATED) OFF FRONT PAGES, THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE FOLLOW-UP COMMENTARY ON MANSFIELD REPORT. SIGNIFICANT EXCEPTION THUS FAR IS THOUGHTFUL TOKYO SHIMBUN EDITORIAL. IT NOTES THAT "CONTENTS ARE SO FAVORABLE TO BE ALMOST EMBARRASSING TO A JAPANESE." TOKYO SHIMBUN GOES ON TO EMPHASIZE, HOWEVER, THAT MANSFIELD'S VIEWS ARE CONSIDERABLY AT VARIANCE WITH THE "AMERICAN PEOPLE'S AVERAGE VIEWS TOWARD JAPAN." IT REMINDS READERS THAT NOTION THAT JAPAN GETS A FREE RIDE ON THE SECURITY TREATY IS DEEP-ROOTED IN THE US, AND ALSO NOTES THAT MANSFIELD'S CALL FOR STEP-BY-STEP WITHDRAWAL OF US GROUND FORCES FROM KOREA IS OPPOSED BY MANY, INCLUDING THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION.

4. FONOFF ALSO HAPPY WITH REPORT. AMERICAN AFFAIRS BUREAU DIRGEN YAMAZAKI NOTED WITH PLEASURE EXTENT TO WHICH REPORT REFLECTED CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF AND THAT OF SECRETARY MANSFIELD. FIRST NORTH AMERICAN DIVDIR WATANABE AGREED, ADDING THAT ONLY MINOR PROBLEM WAS NOTE OF AMBIVALENCE REPORT STRUCK ON QUESTION OF US TROOP WITHDRAWALS FROM KOREA. SHOESMITH

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